

YTR

Testimony to Insurance & Real Estate Committee
Senate Bill 15 An Act Requiring Public Comment for Long-Term Care Policy Rate
Filings

Feb 3, 2011

Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna, and distinguished members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 15 An Act Requiring Public Comment for Long-Term Care Policy Rate. The undersigned individuals each purchased Long Term Health Care policies for themselves and their wives in the fall of 1999. These are "Partnership" policies with benefits to the individuals and the State of CT. The policies would provide long term care for the couples and remove in part or in total the potential need for these individuals to go on title 19.

After making payments for over ten years at a stipulated cost, we were advised in Dec, 2009 that our costs would go up by 12.9%. They had obtained approval from the State of Ct. to raise our costs if they applied it to the entire insurance group of which we were a part. From discussions which we have had, it appears as if the insurers request for a price hike became automatic after 90 days if the Commissioner of Insurance did not object or ask for justification. It appears as if that is what transpired. In Dec, 2010, we were advised that our cost would go up again (2nd year in a row) by 15.9%. Combining the two increments gives us a whopping total increment of 30.8%. Evidently the Commissioner of Insurance and the people who put him in charge felt that the rate was justified!!!

A phone call to the insurance company yielded very little satisfaction. In order to maintain our coverage, we have to 1) pay the new premiums 2) We can continue to pay the old premium if we accept 1/3 less coverage, or 3) stop paying premiums and our health care coverage after more than 12 years of premiums would be equal to the amount of paid in premiums without any interest earned.

We are all retired and collect social security which has frozen for two years. Can we ask the State of Ct for help to pay our insurance bill? Can this last increment be reversed? Do we recommend partnership insurance to our friends? We are angry with the greed of the insurance company and with our state administrators.

Perhaps SB 15 proposed by Senator Slossberg can address the problem.

Sincerely,

E. Norman Choiniere

Gerald Connolly

Charles Panico